

Attorney Docket No.: Metal 1282-WCG
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Ferdinand FINKELDEI and Walter SCHNAUS
PCT Application No. : PCT/EP00/05874
For : METHOD OF CLEANING VALVES OR LINES
Serial No. : To Be Assigned
Filed : Herewith
Art Unit : To Be Assigned
Examiner : To Be Assigned

December 17, 2001

BOX PCT
Hon. Assistant Commissioner For Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

In advance of prosecution, the Examiner is respectfully requested to amend the application as follows and consider the following remarks:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel all the claims and substitute the following:

Claim 5. Method of cleaning valves or lines through which hydrolysable polymers are transported in which, after the polymer stream has been shut off and the polymer has been evacuated, steam is passed through the valves or lines to be cleaned while the lines or valves to be cleaned are maintained at plus/minus 10°C of the